

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 12250 101417Z

47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 W

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P R 101308Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1983

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PINT, ET

SUBJ: STATUS DR. JESSE HOLM

REF: ADDIS ABABA 12185 AND PREVIOUS

1. DR. JESSE HOLM HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF DEC 8 LETTER ADDRESSED TO MINPUBHEALTH AND MINLABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND SIGNED BY LTC ATNAFU ABATE, 2ND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PMAC. THIS LETTER AUTHORIZES ISSUANCE OF EXIT VISAS TO DR. HOLM AND MR. ALIMONTE. DR. HOLM IS TAKING HIS COPY OF THIS LETTER TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPT TO OBTAIN HIS EXIT VISA AND, ASSUMING NO FUTHER DIFFICULTIES ARISE, PLANS TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA ON DEC 12, 1976.

2. THE LETTER ALSO DISCUSSES THE QUESTION OF SEVERANCE PAY WHICH THE WORKERS OF THE FORMER 7TH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL HAVE CLAIMED. THE LETTER STATES THAT AS A RULE WHEN ANY ORGANIZATION IS TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVT NO SEVERANCE PAY IS PAID TO THE EMPLOYEES. AFTER NOTING THAT THE 7TH DAY ADVENTIST MISSION IS OPERATING AS A HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION AND THAT IT IS UNWILLING TO PAY THE AMOUNT CLAIMED BY THE EMPLOYEES BY BRINGING IN FUNDS FROM ABROAD, THE LETTER GOES ON TO STATE THAT THESE EMPLOYEES ARE GOVT EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE AS OF THE DATE OF THE TAKEOVER OF THE HOSPITAL. THEY ARE, THEREFORE, ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVT RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE LETTER AUTHORIZES THEM TO RECEIVE WHAT THEY ARE DUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE LETTER DOES NOT COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY
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THAT THE ADVENTISTS WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY SEVERANCE PAY FROM THE

HOSPITAL'S ASSETS IN ETHIOPIA, IT DOES SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE WORKERS WILL GET NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT IS DUE THEM UNDER CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE LETTER REFERS TO A "TAKEOVER" OF THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT SAYING WHETHER THE HOSPITAL WAS NATIONALIZED OR CONFISCATED. EMB WILL ADVISE WHEN DR. HOLM LEAVES ETHIOPIA. A COPY OF THE ATNAFU LETTER IS BEING POUCHED TO AF/E.

4. NAIROBI PLEASE PASS WATSON IF STILL IN KENYA.
TIENKEN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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